Formulation of Chandrayaan-II

2419. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to formulate Chandrayaan-II as a comprehensive project to do research in Health, Communication, Mineralogy, Meteorology, Space expedition and such other aspects of findings for peoples and commercials needs and purposes; and

(b) if so, the stipulations for earning money through such expeditions to meet the future ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Chandrayaan-II spacecraft is planned to continue the lunar exploration for mineralogical studies with enhanced capabilities. It comprises of an orbiter to go round the moon and a lander that soft lands on the lunar surface with two rovers. The scientific instruments to be flown on the orbiter, lander/rovers are being finalized by the scientific community. Other applications such as communication, meteorology, space expedition or any commercial needs are not planned in Chandrayaan-II.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds spent on Chandrayaan-I

2420. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money that was spent by ISRO for the Chandrayaan-I Project;

(b) in what manner the country would be benefited by this project; and

(c) whether the allocation of funds to Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are comparable with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The total sanctioned cost for Chandrayaan-I project was Rs.386.00 crores, out of which the expenditure upto March, 2009 was Rs.381.49 crores. The remaining funds of Rs.4.51 crores are planned for expenditure during 2009-10.

(b) Chandrayaan-I is a scientific mission with the main objective of lunar exploration and enhancing our understanding of the moon. Chandrayaan-I has given valuable scientific data on lunar surface and it's environs. Lunar mapping for mineralogical survey and discovery of water content on moon's soil are important outcomes/benefits from this mission to our country. Further, the upgradation of technological and industrial capabilities in the areas of launch vehicles, mission management and ground control centre are additional benefits from the

Chandrayaan-I. The Chandrayaan-I projects has enthused the younger generation in the country towards planetary exploration and career in scientific research.

(c) The funds allocation for the Department of Space is based on the programmatic targets of space programme and hence is not comparable with the funds allocation of other departments/agencies.

Development of Kapil-Vastu as tourist spot

†2421. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Kapilvastu, the native place of Lord Buddha, is situated in the district Sidharth Nagar of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that excavation work carried out by the Archaeological Department has confirmed this fact;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government to develop this area as a tourist spot; and

(d) if so, by when it will be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Promotion and development of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them which are complete in all respects as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned a project in the 9th plan-Beautification and landscaping of Kapilvastu, Sidharth Nagar for Rs. 20.00 lakh to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh which has been completed.

Funds under UNDP for rural tourism in Rajasthan

2422. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of funds that have been sanctioned under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Rajasthan with regards to protection of rural tourism;

(b) the details of such sites/projects in Rajasthan; and

(c) what has been achieved so far and the future plans under UNDP assistance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.